



File Code: 3410 (NA-08-05)
Date: August 27, 2008

Clyde Thompson, Forest Supervisor
Monongahela National Forest
USDA Building
200 Sycamore Street
Elkins, WV 26241-3962

Dear Mr. Thompson:

On July 1 and 2, 2008, Rod Whiteman, and Dan Snider of this office along with Lauren Miles from the Allegheny National Forest conducted an aerial detection survey on the Monongahela National Forest. The purpose of this survey was to detect and "sketchmap" the location and intensity of areas affected by forest insects, diseases and weather related events since last year's aerial survey. Parallel flight lines spaced approximately 5 miles apart were flown over the Forest (Figure 1).

This year, gypsy moth caterpillars noticeably defoliated 7,762 acres of Forest Service lands. Approximately, 460 acres of moderate defoliation (31-50%) and 7,290 acres of heavy defoliation (51-100%) were detected. A review of last years aerial survey results show that approximately 1,200 acres of forest lands defoliated in 2007 were again defoliated in 2008.

District Rangers and other field-going personnel have the primary responsibility for on-the-ground, initial detection of insect and/or disease outbreaks. We ask that all field personnel continue to monitor for evidence of insect activity (such as an unusually high number of moths present in the forest in early spring, which may be a prelude to a defoliation event by native defoliators), defoliation, discoloration, and mortality in their areas and report any insect and disease activity to the Morgantown Field Office.

I personally would also like to extend my appreciation to Cameron Crisp for his valuable assistance in this survey. If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this survey or gypsy moth control, please contact Rod Whiteman (304) 285-1555 or Rick Turcotte at (304) 285-1544.

Sincerely,

ROBERT G. LUECKEL
Field Representative
Morgantown Field Office

Enclosures

Cc: District Ranger, Cheat RD
District Ranger, Gauley RD



District Ranger, Greenbrier RD
District Ranger, Greenbrier RD
District Ranger, Marlinton & White Sulphur Springs RDs
District Ranger, Potomac RD
Glen Juergens, Silviculturist
Butch Sayers, WVDA

DS/RMT/AS

Figure 1. – Results of the aerial survey on the Monongahela National Forest, July 1-2, 2008.



